

CONGRESSMAN McADOO.

HIS RECORD IN STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

A Narrative that will be Read with Wide Interest—A Record of Which Hudson County Democrats Should be Proud.

William McAdoo, the regular Democratic nominee for Congress in this district, was born in Ireland, on the 25th day of October, 1853, and was consequently thirty-three years of age last Monday. When he was very young his parents came to this country and took up their abode in this city, where they have resided since. The subject of this sketch received his education in the public schools in this city, having first attended Old No. 1 school, now known as No. 6, and, afterwards, school No. 3, located on Bright street. He was an apt scholar, and was a leader in every class-room which was graced with his presence. His schooling was finished at No. 3. Shortly after leaving school he entered a law office, where after a while he took to reading law. Later he studied law with the late Judge I. W. Scudder. He was admitted to the bar in November, 1874, when he had but just attained his majority as the peer of any of his associates; and being a good speaker, with powers of elocution and eloquence above the average, he took naturally to the platform. With his first vote he became a Democrat in all that the word implies. Mr. McAdoo's first public utterances were made in the famous Tilden campaign of 1876, when he stumped the State in company with Hon. Allan L. McDermott, now Clerk in Chancery and Chairman of the



CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM McADOO.

Democratic State Central Committee, and Hon. Edward F. McDonald, the genial Treasurer of the town of Harrison. The trio were commonly known throughout the State in that campaign as "the three Macs." When the district now represented by Assemblyman Noonan—the eighth—was formed, Mr. McAdoo was chosen as its representative in the Assembly. The district takes in Harrison and part of Jersey City. It will be remembered that the year previous to the election of Mr. McAdoo to the Assembly, Mr. Thomas V. Cator had represented the Third District. Cator's election, it will also be remembered, was the result of an anti-monopoly sentiment which had taken possession of the people by reason of the gathering storm on the question of railroad taxation. Cator, being a man of bright parts and a good speaker, created a favorable impression, and in the pending struggle between the railroads and the people it became absolutely a matter of necessity that somebody from the Democratic masses who could wield as much influence and create as favorable an impression as the pronounced anti-monopolist should step forward and take a stand against the corporations, or the chances were more than even that, the anti-monopoly sentiment in the county being stronger than the Democratic, Cator would have founded an anti-monopoly party in the county, which would have gained a decided foothold. McAdoo was the man for the occasion, and it was his grand fight on the famous bill 167—the boldest piece of effrontery ever developed in the Legislature—that made him popular with the masses all over the county. His position in the Legislature of that session brought to him at its close the chairmanship of the special committee to investigate the subject of railroad taxation. In connection with bill 167 and the attempt to indict Shinn for bribery, the Grand Jury one day tried to pump him about Shinn.

"Didn't you despise him (meaning Shinn) because of his bad character?" he was asked by one of the jury; to which McAdoo replied: "Some kinds of fish there are, you know, that won't bite unless the bait is rotten."

The Grand Jury, it will be remembered, however, did not indict Shinn. When McAdoo returned home at the close of the session, he was banqueted time and again, and was met with ovations at every hand. Notwithstanding all this, McAdoo never had any intention of returning to the Legislature. He supposed that the railroad companies would attempt to thwart any movement to return him, and had he attempted to be returned they would undoubtedly have made a most bitter fight against him. Mr. McAdoo's next appearance in public life was four years ago, when he was first nominated to represent this district in the halls of the lower branch of the National Legislature at Washington. Up to within four days of his nomination on that occasion, Mr. McAdoo had no thought, knowledge or intention of being the nominee of the convention; and had anybody told him in seriousness that he would be Hudson's next Congressman, he would have thought them out of his mind. The circumstances attending his nomination were of a peculiar nature. He had been up at the Court House all day, trying a case. After the adjournment of the court, several parties came to him and mooted his candidacy. He was surprised. He would not only not give his consent to the use of his name, but he said to them:

"Why, gentlemen, it is not among the possible things that I can be nominated, and the best thing you can do is to drop the subject so far as I am concerned."

Notwithstanding McAdoo's protest, the convention was held and he was nominated on the first ballot, although the contest was a spirited one. Having received the nomination, he was naturally anxious to succeed. He did succeed, his majority

being 3,700—the fact that there were certain factions on the other side, which had so many feuds on their hands, militating in favor of the young Congressman. Some idea of the opposition to McAdoo in his first canvass, may be got from the fact that but one newspaper in the county—*The Hudson County Democrat* then edited by Mr. Albert Hoffman, supported him. Not only were all the Jersey City papers opposed him, but the Kearney papers also.

In this campaign the fight against McAdoo was very bitter, many of the older Democrats being somewhat suspicious, to say the least, of the candidacy of the young and energetic reformer; and the result of the first mass meeting after the nomination was awaited with much anxiety and interest. The Republicans thought that the nomination of so young and, as they considered, inexperienced a man was their grand opportunity to send a Republican to Congress from this district, and they took advantage of their supposed opportunity by placing in the field one of their strongest men—ex-Mayor Gilbert Collins. The first Democratic mass meeting in that memorable campaign was held in the Catholic Institute, and it was a grand success. The Institute was crowded to overflowing, and McAdoo was received with the greatest enthusiasm. His splendid oratory and promises to represent all the people in the district in the National Legislature charmed the audience, and when the meeting was about to adjourn the audience rose to a man and gave three wild cheers and the tiger for "Billy McAdoo, our next Congressman." That meeting settled the fight, and McAdoo was elected by a majority of 3700 over Collins, notwithstanding the fact that it was an off year in politics and many Democrats voted for the Republican nominee. McAdoo reached Washington and took his oath of office amid the exciting scenes consequent on the selection of a new Speaker. The candidates were Randall, Carlisle and Cox. Carlisle was the successful man, but McAdoo voted for Randall, and for his active work in behalf of that gentleman's election he got and has retained from that day to this his warmest friendship. His first official act after the organization was his attendance at the Democratic caucus on the then all absorbing question of tariff, which actually threatened to split the party into ten thousand fragments all over the country, by reason of the attempt of the Democratic majority to force the minority to vote with them in favor of what was known as the Morrison horizontal scheme. Mr. McAdoo was the only member from New Jersey who attended the caucus, and the position he assumed there of course voiced the sentiments of the entire State. He addressed the caucus and warned them of the fallacy of pursuing the policy of the majority and pleaded and begged with them to desist from that policy—demonstrating to them in a most masterly manner the effect the result of such a policy would have on the pending presidential contest. Mr. McAdoo, it is needless to say, entered heartily into the movement to defeat the policy urged by the supporters of the Morrison bill, both on the ground of policy and principle, and it was largely to his efforts that the bill was finally defeated—55 Democrats voting against it.

The measure was approved by the caucus, a resolution having been passed, however, calling especially for an expression of opinion when the measure got into the House, and relieving those who were opposed to the measure from standing by the result of the caucus. So far as Congressional legislation is concerned, there are three questions which are considered by our Congressmen as pre-eminent the great questions of the day. These are the land question, the shipping question, involving the national defense, navy, etc., and the all-absorbing tariff question.

The first bill to prohibit the ownership of American lands by aliens ever introduced into the Congress of the United States was introduced by Congressman McAdoo. The importance of this measure can best be imagined when it is understood that there are held in this country to-day by alien absentee landlords, in numerous vast estates, the enormous sum of 20,747,000 acres. The following list will show by whom some of these vast estates are held:

Name of Owner.	Where Situated.	Acres.
English Syndicate.	Texas.	3,000,000
Sir Edward Reid.	Florida.	2,000,000
English Syndicate.	Mississippi.	1,800,000
Marquis of Tweedale.	Florida.	1,750,000
Duke of Sutherland.	Florida.	425,000
Robert Tennant.	London.	230,000
Lord Houghton.	Florida.	60,000
Lord Dunraven.	Colorado.	60,000
Lord Dunmore.	Florida.	120,000
Albert Pegg.	M. P.	10,000

Mr. McAdoo's bill to prohibit these English nabobs, so long as they are absentee aliens and they are opposed to every principle upon which this government is founded from holding these vast estates was passed by a Democratic House and sent over to a Republican Senate for concurrence. But, the Republican Senate have so emasculated it in favor of these very people against whom the bill was introduced by Mr. McAdoo was aimed that it has become scarcely recognizable, and the two branches of Congress are still at loggerheads about it. Mr. McAdoo has made many speeches in Congress on the land question. In fact he has ventilated his views for the benefit of the people of this country on the question every time the subject has come up. Mr. McAdoo introduced, and there is now pending before Congress, a measure calculated to correct the abuses of the homestead and pre-emption acts and the desert land laws. His great knowledge on this important question is the result of the most careful research, study and observation, on his part, of the workings of the system in the West.

There is another question—the shipping question—in which Congressman McAdoo is deeply interested, which is of the most vital importance to the interest of the people of Hudson County, by reason of the fact that Jersey City being a maritime port is very deeply interested in the revival of American shipping. Why this is an important question to the people of this county is easily explainable. In the first place it is of interest to them by reason of the great maritime establishments located and being located on her water front. Secondly, being located on the most accessible water front in the world, she is always open to attack from foreign vessels. And thirdly, her people are a traveling people. This question being so important, it is necessary that the people of the county have some one to represent them in Congress who can deal with the subject intelligently, and Congressman McAdoo understands and can handle the question for the interest of the people of the county better and more intelligently than probably any other man within her borders, certainly than any of

the figureheads who have been named for Congress in the district. Mr. McAdoo's views on the tariff are so well understood and of such a protective character that they need scarcely be set forth here. Notwithstanding his strong and vigorous opposition to free trade, he has never held any personal feeling against the great free trade leaders, and Morrison and he are personally warm friends. Indeed, personally, Mr. McAdoo has the respect and personal friendship of all the great leaders in Congress, of whatever party, and it would not be unjust to say of him that he probably has the enmity of not a few of the lesser lights by reason of his great ability, which forces itself to the front whenever occasion demands. Speaking of ability a New York gentleman, a Republican, largely interested in Naval affairs, said of McAdoo to a *SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* representative one day last week, that he knew more about Naval matters in a day than all the Congressmen from New York City combined could learn during a whole session.

Mr. McAdoo voted against the last Morrison Tariff Bill, of course. He was in part one of the authors of what is known as the "Randall" Tariff Bill, and assisted in making up the report which went under the form of Mr. Randall's printed speech. In this tariff fight McAdoo was more than usually active, because he thought the committee—composed of leading protectionists, headed by Judge Kelly of Pennsylvania, and leading free traders under the lead of Morrison of Illinois—was an extreme one. He was one of a committee of the House appointed to confer with prominent trade organizations in this county opposed to some of the features of the tariff bill, who visited Washington. One of the largest concerns that appeared before the committee was the Clark Thread Works in East Newark.

On the question of inter-State commerce, Mr. McAdoo was in favor of the Reagan Bill, calculated to treat the railroads the same as private individuals, by suing them in the United States Courts for any violation of the law. The main feature of the bill, however, is directed against the system of rebates and pooling, and what is known as the "long cut" and "short cut"—making the long haul pay for the short haul; that is, for instance, charging the same rates to haul freight to far off competing points as for hauling to very near points where there happens to be no competition. Mr. McAdoo has been a member of the Naval Committee for three years in the last Congress; he was favorably considered by the Secretary and Bureau of Officers as the most eligible man for chairman, and the only reason he did not get the chairmanship was because of the fact that the chairmanship of the leading committees of the House were given to the supporters of the dominant faction. And the mere fact that being identified with the minority faction, he was even thought of as chairman of one of the most important committees may be and is looked upon as not only a high honor, but practically an acknowledgement of his mastery ability. The chairmanship of the committee was given to Congressman Herbert of Alabama. The Democratic party stands pledged to rebuild the navy, and consequently the task of the Naval Committee this year has been very arduous. The problems considered by the committee were, how the navy should be rebuilt; where it should be built and what sort of a navy it should be. With a view to solving these problems, the committee took volume after volume of testimony, having been in session every morning and afternoon for fully three months. The result of the committee's labors, the bill which is now a law, was formulated as an installment measure. This bill provides for an expenditure of \$10,500,000 for the building of two armored cruisers, two unarmored cruisers, one torpedo boat and the completion of the monitors.

Mr. McAdoo's whole career in Congress has been marked by the economic doctrines of Randall and Holman, in a careful supervision of public expenditures, and he ranks with them in his watchfulness of the people's interests in this respect. These three shining lights, whenever they get their heads together on a question involving the expenditure of the public treasury, are referred to and pointed out as "Economy Corner."

Mr. McAdoo bitterly opposed and voted against the bill to subsidize the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to the tune of \$800,000 and the scheme was defeated. When the labor arbitration bill was before the House, 150 members ventilated their views for or against it. Of these 150 speeches, two for and two against the bill were selected by the Washington *Star*, a Republican sheet, as the representative speeches made on the subject. One of those speeches was William McAdoo's and in it he introduced the laboring man. The speech was published verbatim, and were also the speeches of John D. Long of Massachusetts, and Judge Hammond of Georgia, who opposed the bill on the ground of its constitutionality.

The brush on the floor between John A. Logan, who was at the time a candidate for Vice-President, and Congressman McAdoo, is quite fresh in the mind of everybody in the country. McAdoo charged the Senator from Illinois with being a land grabber. Logan retorted and McAdoo was called to account for having violated the privileges of the floor, in attacking a Senator. In reply to his attack on Logan, McAdoo was attacked by Valentine, of Nebraska, and Cameron of Illinois; McAdoo ably defended himself in reply and produced evidence which proved conclusively that Logan had attempted to steal the Zuni Indian lands for his brother-in-law. By his reply to their attacks, McAdoo completely turned the tables on Cameron and Valentine, neither of whom ever again opened their lips against him. This little episode brought to McAdoo letters from all over the country, and hundreds of newspapers throughout the country spoke in praise of his action.

About two years ago, it will be remembered, Congressman Randall was invited by his admirers in the South for his course on the Force Bill, and his sentiments in favor of protection, to make a tour of the more industrial belt of the South. Randall invited McAdoo to accompany him, and he did. The brace spoke in all the principal cities of the South, from Louisville, Ky., to Birmingham, Ala., making in all twenty-one speeches, and shaking hands with about two-thirds of the Confederate army.

On the soldier question, Mr. McAdoo—having been too young to enter the army in the late civil war—has refrained from parading himself on the floor of the House as a professional soldier agitator. He voted, however, on questions affecting the soldiers, and in favor of every bill that he considered reasonable and proper present-

ed in Congress since he has been a member. He has obtained many pensions for soldiers in this county. He considers the claims of Union soldiers upon a representative in Congress so sacred and binding that he has steadfastly refrained from proclaiming his doings in their behalf on the house-tops or parading himself ostentatiously as essentially the soldier's friend. He does not think that any member of Congress is entitled to thanks from any Union soldier for presenting his claims or trying to do him justice; and it is true that while his efforts in behalf of the soldier have always been of a practical nature in obtaining pensions and granting them relief, he has studiously avoided noisy and blatant professions in their behalf.

When McAdoo was first a candidate for Congress one of the greatest evils in the House was the large number of absentees, which seriously hampered and blocked the business of the sessions. So great was this evil that in one instance a member from New York City was never once in his seat during the session. He came to Washington and took the oath of office, and thereafter his only act in connection with the office was to send regularly once a month after his salary. McAdoo pledged himself to be at his post, and from that day to the present he has gone on the principle that to be useful to his constituents, to understand intelligently the measures upon which he was to vote, and to do his full duty as a member of important committees, required all his time and attention in Washington when Congress was in session. He has never striven to become a local political manager, nor transferred his attention to legitimate measures from the Capitol at Washington to the Court House or City Hall in Hoboken.

MR. McADOO'S NOMINATION.

Not the Smallest Question of its Perfect Regularity.

The *Journal* and the orators of the Republican party are trying to create a feeling against Congressman William McAdoo among the Democratic masses by endeavoring to throw a cloud on his title to his nomination. The editor of *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* was himself present at the convention which put Mr. McAdoo in the field for the suffrages of the people again, and after careful inquiry satisfied himself that no vote had been tallied for Mr. McAdoo that had not been cast for him. Delegates came to *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* man before the delegates parted for their homes and complained that they had been counted for Mr. McAdoo, when they had not voted for him. The moment the complaints were made, *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* man went to Mr. Mark Curley, the Secretary of the convention, who was yet in the hall; and was shown Mr. Curley's original tally sheet.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE TALLY SHEET SHOWED THAT, IN NO INSTANCE BROUGHT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAD ONE OF THE COMPLAINING DELEGATES BEEN CREDITED WITH HAVING CAST A McADOO VOTE.

There was undoubtedly much noise and confusion at the convention, but this was the result of prearranged work on the part of the Kerr men, who said before they went into the convention that if they could not control it they were going to break it up in a row. The noise and confusion were for the one and only purpose of delaying the calling of the roll till the Kerr faction had made attempts to buy enough delegates to give him the nomination.

In this connection an interview with Mr. Curley, published in the *World*, is of interest. To the reporter for that paper he spoke as follows:

"We publish the tally sheet of the regular convention as a challenge to the bolters to show, if they could, any votes that were counted for McAdoo and were not polled," said Mark Curley, the secretary, yesterday, "and they have fallen into the trap. They took a vote by acclamation in the Hoboken convention, which goes to show that they did not have the votes they claimed. Now, in the regular convention every delegate had an opportunity to vote as he pleased and it is not true that I recorded delegates as voting for McAdoo who were not present or did not vote. I called out some names eight or ten times and at least two delegates, who were put down at first as voting for McAdoo, were scratched off by their own request before the vote was announced, as the tally sheet will show. The truth of the matter is McAdoo was squarely nominated, but he would not have been if the convention had been held an hour later. Kerr was backed by a syndicate which was buying votes. They were headed off before they had time to get enough. They have spent their good money and got nothing to show for it. They want it back and are making a good deal of bluster in the hope of getting it back, but they never will. That is all there is to this business, and the so-called split will not prevent the election of the regular Democratic candidate."

Mr. Curley also sends to us for publication the following very explicit card:

Editor *SUNDAY MORNING NEWS*:—Recognizing the fact that the policy of *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* is to publish the truth of all questions in dispute, and that a space in the columns of your valuable paper is ever open to receive any communication which will enlighten your numerous readers, I submit the following statement of facts in reference to the question of Mr. McAdoo being entitled to the Democratic nomination for Congressman, and also the proofs that he did receive the votes credited to him on the tally sheet which I kept of the convention held at Roche's Hall on October 9th, 1886. In an issue of the *Journal* Saturday we were challenged to publish the tally sheet. A copy of the original tally sheet, and the first copy that was given to any one, and no one, to my knowledge, received a copy to set up in type. The opposition have had, since last Monday, an opportunity to contradict the votes on that tally sheet. The votes in dispute were those of Richard Murry, Fifth Precinct, Second District; Philip Lindemeyer, Third Precinct, Fourth District; H. C. Tiedman, Sixth Precinct, Fourth District (half

vote); N. Belford, First Ward, Bayonne; Philip Gill, Fourth Ward, Bayonne; John Moran, Ninth Precinct, Second District, and William McNally, Second Ward, Harrison. They have produced affidavits signed by Philip Lindemeyer, John Moran, Philip Gill and Richard Murry. As to John Moran, his affidavit states that he did not vote for William McAdoo as a candidate for Congress. John Moran was represented in convention by his proxy, James O'Neill, who voted for McAdoo. Philip Gill was not in the convention at the time of voting, and consequently he could not have voted for either McAdoo or Kerr. This disposes of two of the disputed votes. On our side we present the statement of the following disputed delegates, who certify that they voted for William McAdoo in the convention held October 9th, in Roche's Hall, namely: N. Belford, H. C. Tiedman and William McNally. This controversy has also brought forth the fact that Patrick Kenny, proxy for John Fitzpatrick, of the Fourth Precinct, Sixth District, and P. H. Shanahan, of the Second Precinct, Town of Union, voted for William McAdoo in the convention held at Roche's Hall, and were not credited as so voting on our tally sheet. I submit herewith the statements of the last named delegates to the fact that they did so vote:

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Oct. 19, 1886.
The undersigned delegates to the Democratic Congressional Convention, held on Oct. 9, at Roche's Hall, Jersey City, hereby certify that they voted in said convention for William McAdoo for Congressional nominee. Statements to the contrary are false and must be so known to those who made them.

N. H. BELFORD,
First Ward, Bayonne City.
P. H. SHANAHAN,
Second Precinct, Town of Union.
HENRY C. TIEDMAN,
Sixth Precinct, Fourth District.

This is to certify that I was a delegate (or alternate) for John Fitzpatrick in the Fourth Precinct of Sixth District, and voted for William McAdoo in the Congressional Convention at Roche's Hall, on Saturday, October 9.

PATRICK KENNY.
State of New Jersey, Hudson County, ss.:
John S. Smith, being duly sworn according to law on his oath, says, that N. H. Belford, P. H. Shanahan, Henry Tiedman, and Patrick Kenny, proxy for delegate John Fitzpatrick, all signed the annexed statements and the signatures thereto were written in my presence.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Jersey City this 20th day of October, A.D. 1886.
JOHN S. SMITH.

Samuel D. Haines.
JERSEY CITY, Oct. 19, 1886.
The undersigned, delegate to the Democratic Congressional Convention, held on Oct. 9, 1886, at Roche's Hall, Jersey City, hereby certify that he voted in said convention for William McAdoo for Congressional nominee. Statements to the contrary are false and must be so known to those who make them.

WILLIAM H. McNALLY,
Second Ward, Harrison, N. J.
State of New Jersey, Hudson County, ss.:
John S. Smith, being duly sworn according to law, on his oath says, that William H. McNally, of the Second Ward of Harrison, N. J., signed the annexed statement, and the signature thereto was written in my presence.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Jersey City this 20th day of October, A.D. 1886.
JOHN A. McGRATH,
Master in Chancery of New Jersey.

Having submitted these proofs, we consider that for once and all the case is closed. The *Journal* gave to Mr. McAdoo, by their own admission, forty-six votes, we have added to that by unimpeachable evidence, and beyond dispute, in addition five delegates for Mr. McAdoo; this makes fifty-one delegates that voted for Mr. McAdoo, which cannot be disputed on the basis of their own statements, and by their own admission. They credited Mr. Kerr with fifty-one votes, as shown by an irresponsible meeting in Hoboken, where no ballot was taken. No one knows authentically how many real delegates were present at the Hoboken meeting. That there were very few is plainly seen from the statements in the press. Taking all they claim about that meeting to be true, and allowing by their own figures we have beyond the question of a doubt, taken from Mr. Kerr's alleged list of fifty-one, five. This makes Mr. Kerr a minority candidate on his own showing. The truth is, on a full ballot of the minority Mr. Kerr, in my opinion, would not have polled over two-thirds of the remainder of the convention.

These are the plain simple facts of the case. Let others indulge in affidavits and re-affidavits if they will, and make all manner of misstatements about the convention, only facts stand out clear—Mr. McAdoo had a majority of the delegates and was fairly nominated. A great deal more might be said which would not reflect creditably upon those who are waging this warfare and which would make ridiculous the pretensions to purity and reform in political methods. Mr. McAdoo's friends have dared to publish their list and dared to state their case, and that, too, in the columns of the Republican paper. Their reporter will bear me out that he was given full facility to investigate the official tally list in my possession. I will be disappointed if the *Journal* should force all claims to fairness by not giving equally as prominent a place to this statement as it has to those criticising the action of the convention.
(Signed) MARK CURLEY.

SEEKING TWO OFFICES.
"Two" Wanser's Anxiety to Capture Farm Two Fat Public Places.

No one knows just why the Hon. P. Farmer Wanser should have been anxious to get the Republican nomination against Surrogate O'Neill; but everybody knows that he was. The Republican convention knew that Surrogate O'Neill had a clean walk over, and they gratified Mr. Wanser's ambition to be put on the ticket, without attempting to get anyone else in the field. He is now already in the possession of a fat public office. He is trustee at the Second District Police Court, which pays him \$2,500 a year. He has a good deal of time on his hands in spite of his public duty; and he seems to have tried to turn it to account by seeking the privilege of discharging the duties of the Surrogate. *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* has already set its face against this double office seeking, and still holds to its doctrine that two offices are for two men. It is said in very many quarters that Wanser has no idea of achieving an election; but that he has been induced to sacrifice himself upon the altar of his party to get something better in the future. He is a well-liked man, and he is expected to strengthen the tickets in the Assembly districts. It is known that John R. Wiggins, of Hoboken, was induced to accept the Republican Senatorial nomination against his wishes, after Besson had declined it, for the purpose of preserving the strength of the party in the Assembly contests. The Assembly districts are all the Republicans want out of this county. Their only aim is to make General Sewell United States Senator again. Mr. Wanser is probably in the contest for the Surrogate for the same reason that Mr. Wiggins is in the Senatorial fight. It is a question however if Mr. Wanser can lend any strength to the ticket. His intimacies with the Farrier wing of the Republican party, and the belief that he is his personal candidate, will necessarily weaken him with all who are opposed to them. More than that, a story is current that he offended many of the Republican workers in the party when he ran for Surrogate against Mr. McAdoo last fall. The business of the Republican County Committee is of course to lead its best efforts impartially to the election of all the candidates on the Republican ticket, and every man on the ticket is expected not only to work for himself, but to work for his fellow nominees as well. He falls into disorder when he attempts to cut the throats of his political allies. Gen. Ramsey informed *THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS* that Mr. Wanser did this very thing last fall. Just on the eve of election he sent to the Republican County Committee thousands of tickets, to be distributed among the voters. When the Committee-men opened them, they discovered that Wanser's was the only Republican name on them—that they were the straight Democratic tickets throughout with that single exception.

EDWARDS' RAILROAD FIGHT

DEFEATING A RAILROAD'S ATTEMPT TO STEAL A STREET.

A Case With the New Jersey Central Railroad of New Jersey That Established a Great Public Principle.

William D. Edwards, the Democratic candidate for State Senator, has had a good deal to do with railroad cases in the course of his practice; but it has always been on the side of the people, and against the corporations. He has appeared in countless suits for taxpayers whose property the railroads have sought to take by condemnation, and has forced the companies into paying a reasonably fair price for the property they have wanted. One case however in which he appeared was of even larger importance than these, and in an important legal contest, established the right of the city to her highways. Communipaw avenue had been laid out for public use as a thoroughfare on the maps for over 200 years, and there is scarcely a man in the county who can now remember when it was first opened for public use. The New Jersey Central Railroad Company wanted to run under it, and spanned it for the travel over head with a bridge. The bridge was first laid at grade; but for some reason or other they wanted it higher, and applied to the Board of Works for permission to raise it. This was refused; and then they asked permission to put a new bridge there. This right was not denied them. They went to work on the new structure and made the most of their opportunity. They dropped a gang of men at the scene of labor on Sunday morning, and by Sunday evening had erected abutments for a bridge eighteen inches or two feet above grade. They had selected Sunday for the work because it was the day when they were less liable to interference. The property owners viewed this approaching raise of the grade, in defiance of law and the city authorities, with alarm. It would make cesspools of their lands lying near. They applied to Edwards & Wallis, told their story, and Mr. Edwards left his bed at midnight to consult the Chancellor. Papers were drawn, and a suit entered on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of Jersey City to prevent the change of grade. A temporary injunction restraining the company from going on with the work was granted; but on argument the company was allowed to go on with the work at its peril. Testimony was taken thereafter from time to time, and finally the case was submitted to Vice Chancellor Van Fleet, by Mr. Edwards and John A. Blair, on behalf of the taxpayers, ex-Chancellor Williamson appearing for the railroad company. Vice Chancellor Van Fleet, after considering the case, decided that the change of grade was in defiance of law, and the company had to take down the structure they had put up in the meanwhile, and rebuild it to the established grade of the street.

The principles established in the interests of the taxpayers by this notable suit were: First.—That the grant under which the railroad claimed authority to destroy a public right should be strictly construed against the company, and

Secondly.—That a railroad corporation having authority, when public necessity requires to change the grade of the streets crossing its tracks, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO EXERCISE ITS POWER IN THAT RESPECT, EXCEPT UPON THE SAME TERMS THAT THE MUNICIPALITY WITHIN WHICH THE STREETS ARE LOCATED MAY EXERCISE LIKE POWER—THAT IS, ON THE PAYMENT OF DAMAGES TO THOSE INJURED BY THE CHANGE, and

Third.—That a municipality having the control and supervision of the public highways within its territorial limits may maintain a suit in equity to prevent any alteration of the streets or injury to them, which will deprive the public of their use.

"It is obvious at a glance," said the Vice Chancellor in his decision, reported in *Stewart's Equity Reports*, vol. 13, "that the change the defendants propose to make in the elevation of their bridge, if carried out, will, unless the grade of the street on either side of the bridge is also changed, render the avenue wholly useless as a public highway, and operate as a practical vacation of it. A rise of three feet will utterly destroy the avenue as a public highway."

No change can be made in the grade without the consent in writing of the owners of the majority of the property to be assessed therefor, and upon payment to the owners of property injured thereby of the damages they have sustained by such change."

It was a clean attempt by the railroad to steal a public highway, and Mr. Edwards defeated it.